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publications are concerned, the rate is the net cost plus a certain percentage in order to cover the commission we give to the various sellers; as far as Acts and the proceedings of the Legislative Council are concerned, special rates are adopted to make them cheaper. I do not think that, by our adopting the Government of India rate, we shall be able to sell the publications at a lesser cost than we are now able to do."

Irrigation

Progress of the Palar Enquiry Committee.

* 544 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Palar Committee has concluded its labours;

(*b*) if not, at what stage its enquiries are; and

(*c*) whether the Mysore Government have given the information called for?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 713, dated 25th February 1935. The Mysore Government have since furnished certain statistics. These have been referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for examination and report. The Chief Engineer's report is awaited.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I ask whether the Palar Committee will be given an opportunity to examine the statistics and the report of the Chief Engineer on the statistics? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" I will see after I get the report from the Chief Engineer."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" When is the report likely to be received from the Chief Engineer? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" I have no idea."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" In view of the long delay and in order to enable us to come to a final conclusion, may I know whether the Government would ask the Chief Engineer to expedite the submission of his report? "

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—" I should prefer that the Chief Engineer should examine these statistics carefully."

Alleged silting up of the tanks in the Palar Anicut System in the North Arcot district.

* 545 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the various tanks in North Arcot in the Palar Anicut System and the class under which they are classified, and the length of supply available;

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(b) whether it is a fact that several of these tanks have become silted with the consequent result that the storage capacity has diminished; and if so, to what extent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in the chain of tanks referred to above, the Kaveripakkam tank and the Mamandur tank have silted and that they had gone dry constantly?

A.—(a) There are nearly 240 tanks in the system in North Arcot district, and the preparation of a statement to supply the information asked for would involve an expenditure of time and labour which cannot be justified.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) During the budget debate, in March last, a reference was made to the condition of these two tanks. The Government are awaiting a report from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the point.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Are there any orders that minor irrigation tanks should be inspected at least once every year and a report sent to the Collector as to their condition?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Notice, Sir."

Scheme, if any, for improving irrigation in Kollegal.

* 546 Q.—Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kollegal has been suffering very badly for the last few years for want of timely rains;

(b) whether they are aware that the tanks in the taluk have not had sufficient supply of water during the last five years;

(c) whether the Government have any scheme to secure a proper and sufficient supply of water to the tanks; if so, in what stage it is; and

(d) whether the Government have any irrigation schemes in Kollegal included in the programme; if so, in what stage they are?

A.—(a) The Government are aware that there was scarcity of rainfall in the Kollegal taluk at the end of the year 1934. From the latest weekly season reports the Government also observe that more rain is needed in certain taluks of the Coimbatore district including Kollegal.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) & (d) The hon. Member presumably refers to the special accelerated and widespread programme of improvements to minor works sanctioned by Government in April last. The entire sum of Rs. 10,000 allotted to the Coimbatore district in the current year, will be spent on repairs and improvements to the tanks in Kollegal taluk. A statement [a] showing the list of tanks proposed to be improved is annexed. In addition to these works, gaugings are being taken in connexion with the Uduthorahalla scheme.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 120 infra.